

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Dodd Backed Sourwine's Bad Check

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

One interesting chapter in the life of Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.), whom this column praised for his battle against monopoly, juvenile delinquency and indiscriminate sale of guns, is his finances.

He had a habit of financing various private projects out of money raised from friends to finance his election. These projects ranged from vacations for his family, to repairs on his home, to paying ghostwriters for a book to be published under his name.

Two of the ghostwriters were Edward Lockett to whom was paid \$8000 out of the "Testimonial for U.S. Senator Thomas J. Dodd" account, and Jay Sourwine, to whom Dodd paid \$2500.

The latter transaction is especially interesting because one of Sourwine's checks, for \$2500, bounced. Sourwine is the well-known counsel for the Senate Internal Security Committee which has focused great attention on Government security risks. The Committee's definition of a security risk includes a man who cannot pay his debts.

Sen. Dodd's intimate financial relations with Sourwine are important right now, at a time when the White House has been persuaded to abolish the State Department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs headed by Abba

Schwartz, a Kennedy liberal, a target of Sourwine. It's been suspected that Sourwine, Sen. Dodd and Miss Frances Knight of the Passport Division persuaded the White House to abolish Schwartz's job.

Harassing Schwartz

Sourwine came to Washington from Nevada under the late Sen. Pat McCarran (D-Nev.) to become counsel of the Internal Security Committee, headed by McCarran, Sen. William Jenner (R-Ind.) and latterly by Sen. James Eastland of Mississippi. Dodd is one of the Committee's most zealous members.

At various closed-door sessions of this Committee, Sourwine grilled Schwartz on such petty matters as, "Did you describe this Committee or its proceedings in derogatory terms? . . . Did you make it a point of telling these officials that I was highly nervous . . . and that I took some pills and drank a great deal of water?"

Sourwine, with the support of Sen. Dodd, put Schwartz on the griddle for allegedly harassing Miss Knight and trying to fire her as head of the Passport Office.

The part that Sourwine and Dodd appeared to have played in Schwartz's ouster was only a small part of an unusual career.

Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), when attorney general of New

York blamed Sourwine for the accusation that he, Javits, had used Communist help in first getting elected to Congress. Sourwine also aroused the wrath of the late Sen. Tom Hennings (D-Mo.) for going on a witch-hunting expedition against the New York Times in 1955. He accused various staff members of the Times with prior membership in the Communist Party.

Most recently Sourwine had aroused Dodd's ire by branding the American Friends Service Committee as pro-Communist. Sen. Dodd apologized and told intimates that he would demand Sourwine's resignation. But nothing happened.

Check Bounces

Despite all this, the Senator from Connecticut wrote in his diary Jan. 20, 1964:

"Jay Sourwine visited the office. A couple of weeks ago, he came to see me and said he knew I was attempting to write a book, and that he could be helpful. He would have to do this on his own time, and if I could pay him \$3500 he could be of great assistance.

"I told him at that time that it was pretty expensive, and he said that he owed some money and was getting pressed to pay it. This is why he would like to earn some extra money.

"Some days later he called on me again and asked if I

would endorse a check of his so that he could cash it at the Senate disbursing office. Today, he said he was worried about his check and that it had bounced at his bank in Nevada.

"This was very upsetting to me because I had endorsed it so that he could cash it. He said he would see what he could do about it, and the matter was left at that."

On Jan. 27, the Senator wrote further: "Jay Sourwine came by this afternoon and told me his check had bounced . . . I told him what I thought about it and told him I was very put out about it. He asked if I would make it good. He said he would do some extra work to help me with the book and would do it on his own time."

Dodd gave Sourwine a check for \$2500 on the Hartford National Bank. Next day, Jan. 28, Dodd's political henchman, Ed Sullivan, negotiated a \$2500 loan for Dodd with Connecticut Bank and Trust, and deposited the money in the Hartford National Bank to make good the Senator's check to Sourwine.

The Connecticut Bank and Trust loan was finally paid off one year later from the proceeds of a fund-raising dinner, March 8, 1965, to which Vice President Humphrey was induced to come on the plea that Dodd needed to pay off his 1964 campaign deficit.

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